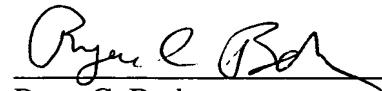


REMARKS

It should be appreciated that claims 21 and 23 are cancelled by this amendment. The Appeal Brief was filed on October 7, 2003. The Examiner subsequently entered an amendment in a paper mailed October 9, 2003. Therefore, the Appeal Brief correctly stated the status of the claims at the time of the filing of the Appeal Brief. Only the subsequent entrance of the amendment caused the disjoinder in the status of the claims and the status stated in the Appeal Brief. The claims are now in condition to be considered for appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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